

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: ARA/BR:JSLATTERY:NLF

APPROVED BY: ARA/BR:RWZIMMERMANN

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R 061844Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108303

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 108303 ACTION LONDON INFO EC BRUSSELS PARIS  
VIENNA OECD CAPITALS USUN KINGSTON BRUSSELS 09 MAY REPEATED  
COLOMBO 22 MAY

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108303

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT:MAITLAND BRIEFING ON RESULTS OF COMMONWEALTH  
PRIME MINISTERS CONFERENCE.

SIR DONALD MAITLAND, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE FCO,  
ACCOMPANIED BY PETER PRESTON, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE DEPART-  
MENT OF TRADE, AND ARCHIE MACKENZIE, UK MINISTER AT THE UN,  
BRIEFED ASSISTEAANT SECRETARIES HARTMAN, BUFFUM, AND ROGGEERS,  
AND REEPRESENTATIVES FROM STATE, TREASURY, AND STR ON REAC-  
TION TO THE BRITISH INITIATIVE ON COMMODITIES AT THE COMMON-  
WEALTH PRIME MINISTERS CONFERENCE. (MEMCON BEING AIR  
POUCHED.) BRITISH TALKING POINTS ON THE RESULTS OF THE CON-  
FERENCE FOLLOW:

UNITED KINGDOM INITIATIVE ON COMMODITIES AT CONFERENCE OF  
COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

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1. AT THE KINGSTON CONFERENCE, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

TABLED A PROPOSAL FOR A GENERAL AGREEMENT ON COMMODITIES ON THE LINES PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED. THE CONFERENCE AGREED TO SET UP A GROUP OF EXPERTS.

2. THE BRITISH IDEAS ON COMMODITIES HAVE AROUSED MUCH INTEREST. THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FOR REASONS OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE REST OF THE GROUP OF 77, ARE

UNLIKELY TO JOIN IN PROMOTING THEM. BUT THE RECEPTION WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO CONFIRM OUR BELIEF THAT COMMODITIES SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN TIER 2 OF THE PROPOSED THREE-TIER APPROACH TO THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN ASSEMBLY. WE HOPE THAT OTHER OECD GOVERNMENTS WILL BE MAKING SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER TIER 2 ITEMS. RAPID PREPARATION AND COORDINATION OF THE POSITION OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IS CLEARLY DESIRABLE. THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING AT THE END OF MAY WILL BE OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE, COMING JUST BEFORE THE FORMAL MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION.

3. THE MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD IN OUR VIEW HAVE TWO PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES:

A. TO AGREE A COMMON APPROACH BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, AND

B. TO GIVE A CLEAR SIGNAL TO THE GROUP OF 77 DESIGNED TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO RESPOND TO THE PRACTICAL APPROACH TO WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BY MAKING PROGRESS WHERE PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE RATHER THAN ADOPT A CONFRONTATIONAL ATTITUDE OF INSISTING ON AN IMMEDIATE ROOT AND BRANCH REVISION OF THE WHOLE TRADE AND MONETARY SYSTEM.

4. REAL PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF COMMODITIES REMAINS CENTRAL TO OUR APPROACH. OUR PROPOSALS FOR A GENERAL AGREEMENT ON COMMODITIES ON THE LINES THE PRIME MINISTER SET OUT IN KINGSTON WOULD SEEM TO PROVIDE A GOOD BASIS FOR A COMMON OECD POSITION ON COMMODITIES. THERE SEEMS TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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A GOOD CHANCE THAT SOME INDUSTRIALIZED PRODUCER COUNTRIES E.G. CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND, WHILE THEY MAY HAVE SOME POINTS TO ADD, COULD AGREE TO GIVE BROAD SUPPORT TO OUR IDEAS.

5. WE ARE DISCUSSING ALL THIS WITH OUR EEC PARTNERS AND THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN OECD THIS WEEK. MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE, BOTH IN THE EVOLUTION OF GENERAL

POLICY AND IN THE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES. THERE IS CERTAINLY A NEED TO CONSIDER EACH COMMODITY SEPARATELY AND IN DETAIL BUT WE DO NOT THINK THAT WE NEED COMPLETE OUR ANALYSIS BEFORE REACHING AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE IN OECD TO A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE COMMODITY PROBLEM INCLUDING A COMMITMENT TO EXAMINE THE PRACTICAL POSSIBILITIES OF SOME SCHEME OF EARNINGS STABILIZATION. THIS WOULD BE OF WIDER APPLICATION THAN THE LOME CONVENTION STABEX SCHEME AND COULD BE LARGELY SELF-FINANCING.

6. IN ADVOCATING THIS BROAD APPROACH WE DO NOT WANT TO INTERFERE WITH THE USE OF THE NORMAL CHANNELS FOR CONTINUING EXAMINATION AND NEGOTIATION OF COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS. WORK IN HAND SHOULD CONTINUE IN UNCTAD COMMITTEES, MTN'S, PARTICULAR COMMODITY GROUPS, ETC. OUR AIM IS TO SET THESE IN A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE GENERAL CONTEXT THAN THE ALL-OR-NOTHING DEMANDS OF THE GROUP OF 77. NOR WOULD WE EXCLUDE PARALLEL DISCUSSION OF COMMODITIES AND ENERGY PROBLEMS. OUR HOPE IS THAT A POSITIVE APPROACH BY OECD ON COMMODITIES MIGHT ENABLE BOTH SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED MORE CONSTRUCTIVELY.

7. THERE WILL BE VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER COORDINATION BEFORE THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE LINES AGREED AT THE ECSS MEETING THIS WEEK. KISSINGER  
UNQUOTE  
INGERSOLL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE108303  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ARA/BR:JSLATTERY:NLF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750671/aaaacmgc.tel  
**Line Count:** 144  
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**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAITLAND BRIEFING ON RESULTS OF COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS CONFERENCE.  
**TAGS:** ETRD  
**To:** BRASILIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006